

May 25, 2000

HONORING PARKCHESTER CHORUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we have something to sing about: The Parkchester Chorus is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. This wonderful group performed its first spring concert in 1940. It was founded by residents of the Parkchester housing complex and is the oldest choral group in the Bronx. Over the years the group has expanded from out of the Parkchester community and now draws its members from as far as New Jersey and Connecticut. But it still reflects its roots in the Bronx as a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, non-sectarian choral group.

The Parkchester Chorus is a vital part of the cultural life of the Bronx. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chorus and its members for their valuable contributions to our lives and their gift of music to our parents, to us and to future generations. I offer them three musical cheers.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
LUKE M. TWAREK ON HIS AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Luke M. Twarek of Marblehead, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, Luke's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Luke brings an outstanding mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While attending Danbury High School, Luke has attained a grade point average of 4.055, which places him first in his class of forty-six students. Luke is a member of the National Honor Society and is an Honor Roll member. Luke has received the PTO Academic Honors Award and Academic Letters in each year of high school. Clearly, Luke has performed very well in the classroom.

On the fields of competition, Luke has distinguished himself as a fine student-athlete. He is a four-year member of the Varsity Football team and served as co-captain during his senior season. Luke is also a four-year letter winner on the Varsity Track team. In fact,

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Luke has received the Scholar-Athlete Award in both football and track. Luke serves as Vice President of the Key Club, Editor of the school web page, and co-captain of the Academic Challenge Team. He is also a member of the Science Club, Concert and Pep Band, Computer Club, and has attended the Naval Academy Summer Seminar.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Luke M. Twarek. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Luke will do very well at the Naval Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. It's important that we recognize the rich cultural heritage of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and all that they have contributed to America and American values.

All too often, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are subject to prejudice and acts of violence. We must resolve to repair the damage done from past abuses and recognize and promote equality in every walk of life and in every way possible.

I introduced H. Con. Res. 111 to condemn acts of prejudice against Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and support political and civic participation by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. I'm also proud to be a co-sponsor of legislation and a signatory on several letters that recognize the rich heritage of Asian and Pacific Americans and condemn past wrongs.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting the following bills and letters:

I'm proud to be a signatory of Representative MATSUI's open letter in support of the President's initiative aimed at preserving WWII-era Japanese American Internment Camps in order to educate future generations about lessons learned from this stain on our nation's history.

I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Wartime Parity and Justice Act which would grant relief to Japanese Latin Americans who were abducted and unlawfully interned in the United States but who were not included in the settlement agreement signed into law by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

I call for the leadership of the Congress to move forward without delay on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and I pay tribute to the efforts of the Administration to act on Bill Lann Lee's appointment.

The President has appointed more Asian Pacific Americans to Administration positions and the Federal bench than any other President. In June 1999, the Clinton-Gore Administration issued an Executive Order dedicated to

improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans, the first of its kind ever issued. President Clinton has also proposed \$698 million for civil rights enforcement this year—a 13 percent increase—to prosecute criminal civil rights cases, including hate crimes and police misconduct.

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have suffered unfounded and demagogic accusations of disloyalty throughout the history of the United States. We should, instead, recognize the rich cultural heritage of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and all they have contributed to America and American values.

We must never forget the strength our country has gained from the inspiration, the hard work, the loyalty and the leadership of Asian and Pacific Americans and all they contribute to the strength of our nation.

RECOGNITION OF FRANK
McDUFFIE

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism of Mr. Frank McDuffie of Richmond County, North Carolina. Mr. McDuffie joined the Navy in 1935 at a time when America was trying to recover from the Great Depression and Europe was in turmoil. Even in 1940, the war raging in Europe seemed distant and surreal. Yet on that infamous day in early December, 1941, Mr. McDuffie experienced the dark reality of war. Serving as a machine gun operator and a cook aboard the USS *Nevada*, Mr. McDuffie was stationed below the water line of the ship as Japanese bombers shelled Pearl Harbor. As the United States was violently thrust into World War II, Mr. McDuffie peered through the ship's window to see the Rising Sun flying overhead and felt the bombs' vibrations rumbling through the *Nevada*. Tied to the USS *Arizona* and the USS *Oklahoma*, the *Nevada* managed to cut loose while withstanding the onslaught of rapid machine gun fire and torpedo explosions. However, the damage to the ship was extensive enough that the ship had to run aground to avoid sinking at sea. Although the *Nevada* fared better than the *Oklahoma* and the *Arizona*, both of which sank due to extensive damage, she survived with a gaping hole.

Nearly 60 years after that foreboding day in December, 1941, I stand today before you to honor Mr. Frank McDuffie. Mr. McDuffie is illustrative of the Greatest American Generation—a generation of ordinary men and women asked to do the extraordinary. He joined the Navy to defend the United States and its citizens, to protect the freedoms and liberties we deem natural and God-given. Men like Mr. McDuffie, ordinary citizens willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country, provided the foundation on which America grew to become a great nation of unsurpassed international leadership and influence. Veterans like Mr. McDuffie are genuine American heroes. Mr. McDuffie's experience is a reminder that this country was built on the sacrifices of the brave men and women who

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